Google Transparency Report

Overview

Requests to delist content under European privacy law

In a May 2014 ruling, the Court of Justice of the European Union found that individuals have the right to ask search engines like Google to delist certain results about them. This report provides data on the volume of requests, the URLs delisted, the individuals submitting requests, and the content of websites and URLs identified in requests.

Delisting URLs from Google Search for privacy

In a May 2014 ruling by the Court of Justice of the European Union, the Court found that individuals have the right to ask search engines like Google to delist certain results for queries on the basis of a person's name. The search engine must comply if the links in question are "inadequate, irrelevant or no longer relevant, or excessive," taking into account public-interest factors including the individual's role in public life. Pages are only delisted from results in response to queries that relate to an individual's name. We delist URLs from all of Google's European search results—results for users in France, Germany, Spain, etc.—and use geolocation signals to restrict access to the URL from the country of the requester. The chart below shows the total number of requests received and the total number of URLs requested to be delisted since May 29, 2014.

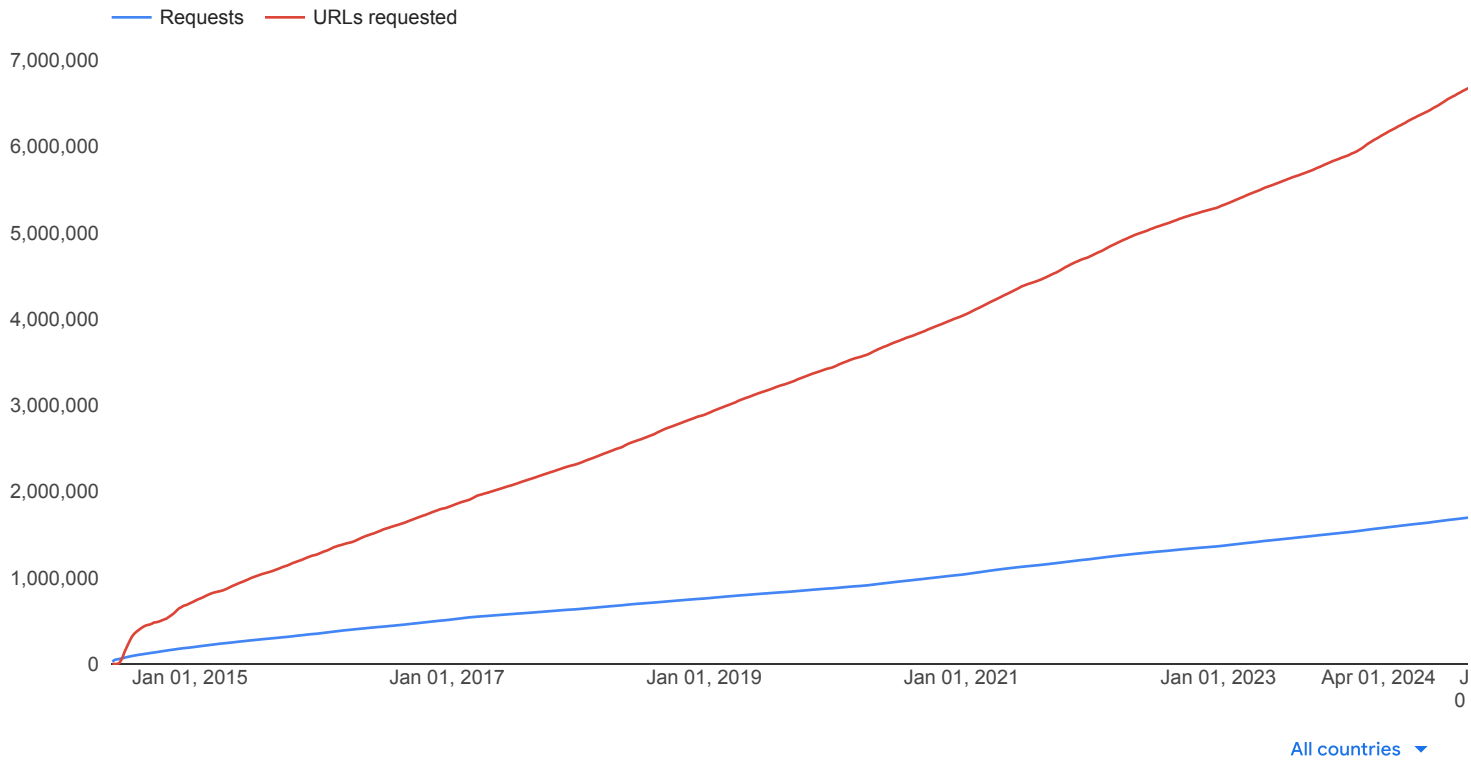
Requests to delist

1,722,861

URLs requested to be delisted

6,785,964

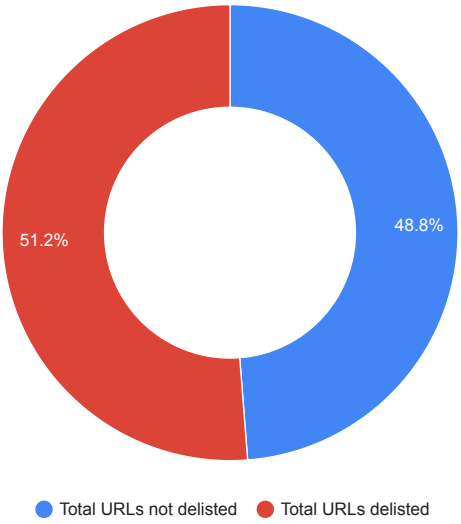
Requests received over time



All countries

URLs requested and delisted

Start 5/28/2014 End 2/12/2025



All countries

This chart shows the percentage and actual number of URLs that have been delisted after review. The data used to generate the chart goes back to the launch of our official request process on May 29, 2014. URL delisting requests that are still pending review, or that require additional information in order to process, are not included in this chart.

Evaluating requests

We assess each request on a case-by-case basis. In some cases, we may ask the individual for more information. We have carefully developed criteria in alignment with the Article 29 Working Party's guidelines. After a request is submitted to us via our webform it undergoes a manual review. Once we reach a decision, the individual will receive an email notifying them of our decision and, if we do not delist the URL, a brief explanation. For additional information about our process and how to submit a request to delist content, please visit the Right to be Forgotten Overview .

Reasons we don't delist

A few common material factors involved in decisions not to delist pages include the existence of alternative solutions, technical reasons, or duplicate URLs. We may also determine that the page contains information which is strongly in the public interest. Determining whether content is in the public interest is complex and may mean considering many diverse factors, including—but not limited to—whether the content relates to the requester's professional life, a past crime, political office, position in public life, or whether the content is self-authored content, consists of government documents, or is journalistic in nature.

Explore requests

These are examples of requests we've received from individuals. In assessing each request, Google must consider the rights of the individual and the public's interest in the content. We have removed any identifying information from these examples in order to protect the identity of the individual affected by the content.

All countries All time Any decision

Austria

Request

We received a request from the Austrian Data Protection Authority on behalf of an individual to delist 12 URLs which discussed the publication of prohibited nationalist lyrics on the invitation flyer for a fraternity event. The use of these lyrics led to legal proceedings against the individual, which were dropped at a later stage.

Outcome

We agreed to remove all 12 URLs because the individual was a student at the time and was not involved in any political activity.

Belgium

Request

We received a request from an individual to delist 4 URLs: 2 news articles from 2007 and 2 archived documents from the 1980s, including one hosted on a government website. The URLs discussed important historical events which had taken place in a country in South America and in which the individual had been involved. The request stated that the URLs presented a risk to both the physical and psychological stability of the individual and of their family.

Outcome

We did not delist any of the URLs in light of the historical nature of the events and involvement of the requestor.

Belgium

Request

We received a request from a social worker to delist 5 news articles on behalf of an individual. The articles stated that the individual had been found guilty of multiple accounts of rape and sexual abuse against a family member and two other underaged victims; they received a 7-year prison sentence in 2006.

Outcome

We did not delist 4 URLs requested given the severity of the crime, the sentence they received, and the time that had passed since the sentence had ended. We asked the individual for more information regarding the remaining URL.

Bulgaria

Request

We received a request from a politician to delist 11 URLs (news articles and blog posts dated 2012). The URLs reported on the individual's allegedly illegal professional practice and included some sensitive information about their sexual orientation, which the individual themself had made public in a book.

Outcome

We did not delist any of the 11 URLs due to the requester's current role in the public sphere.

Croatia

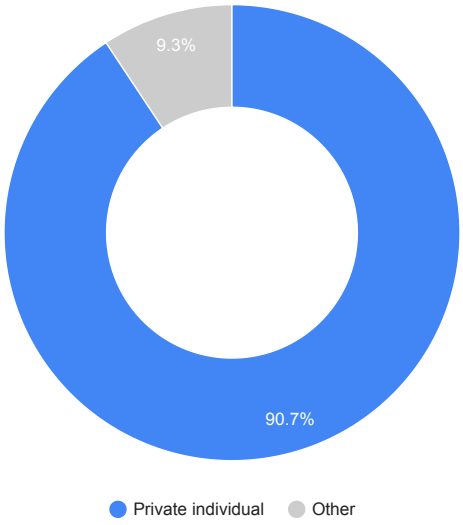
Request

We received a request from an individual to delist 1 URL, a news article published in 2003. The request was made on behalf of all the family members mentioned in the article, which discussed the family's living conditions.

Outcome

We delisted the URL for all the requested family members given the lack of public interest and the time passed since publication.

Categories of requesters



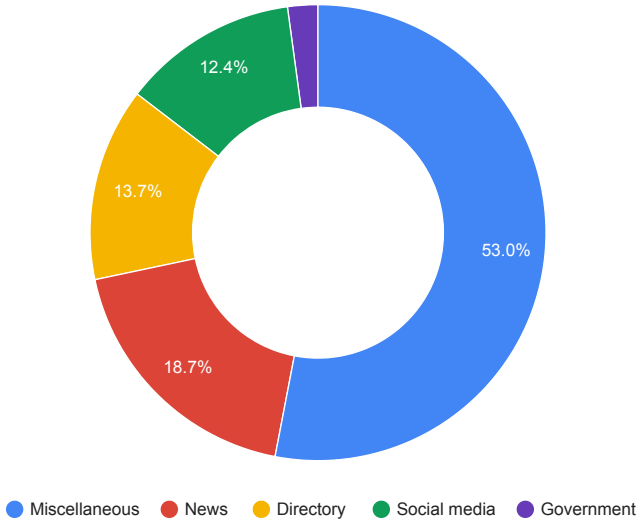
All countries Include private individuals

This chart provides a breakdown of the categories we use to classify requesters when we evaluate requests to delist URLs. As of January 2018, 1% of all requesters accounted for approximately 20% (1.4M) of the total URLs requested for delisting. The data represents the number of requests we've received beginning in January 2016.

Learn more

Categories of websites hosting content requested for delisting

Start 1/21/2016 End 2/12/2025

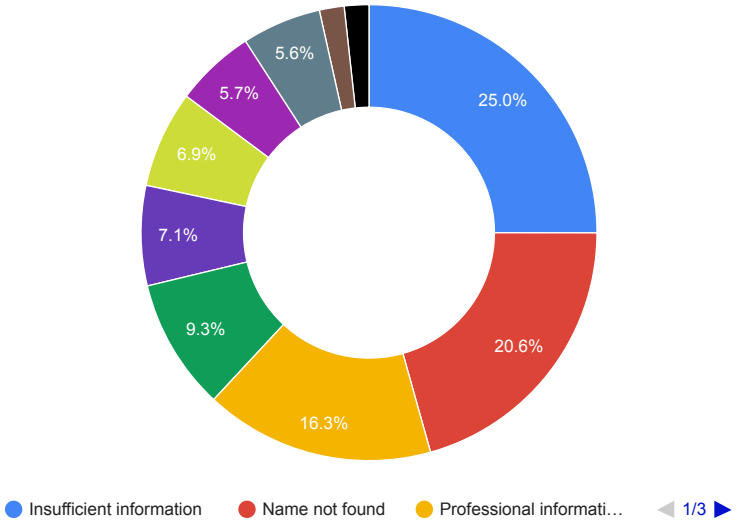


All countries

This chart shows the percentage of URLs we have evaluated for delisting by the category of site identified in the request. URL delisting requests that are still pending review, or that require additional information in order to process, are not included in this chart. This data dates back to January 2016.

Categories of content requested for delisting

Start 1/21/2016 End 2/12/2025



All countries

This chart shows the percentage of URLs we have evaluated for delisting, broken out by the category of content at the requested URL. URL delisting requests that are still pending review, or that require additional information in order to process, are not included in this chart. This data dates back to January 2016.

Learn more about our categories

Requested content by website category

This chart shows the breakdown of categories of content appearing on URLs requested to be delisted, according to the type of site.

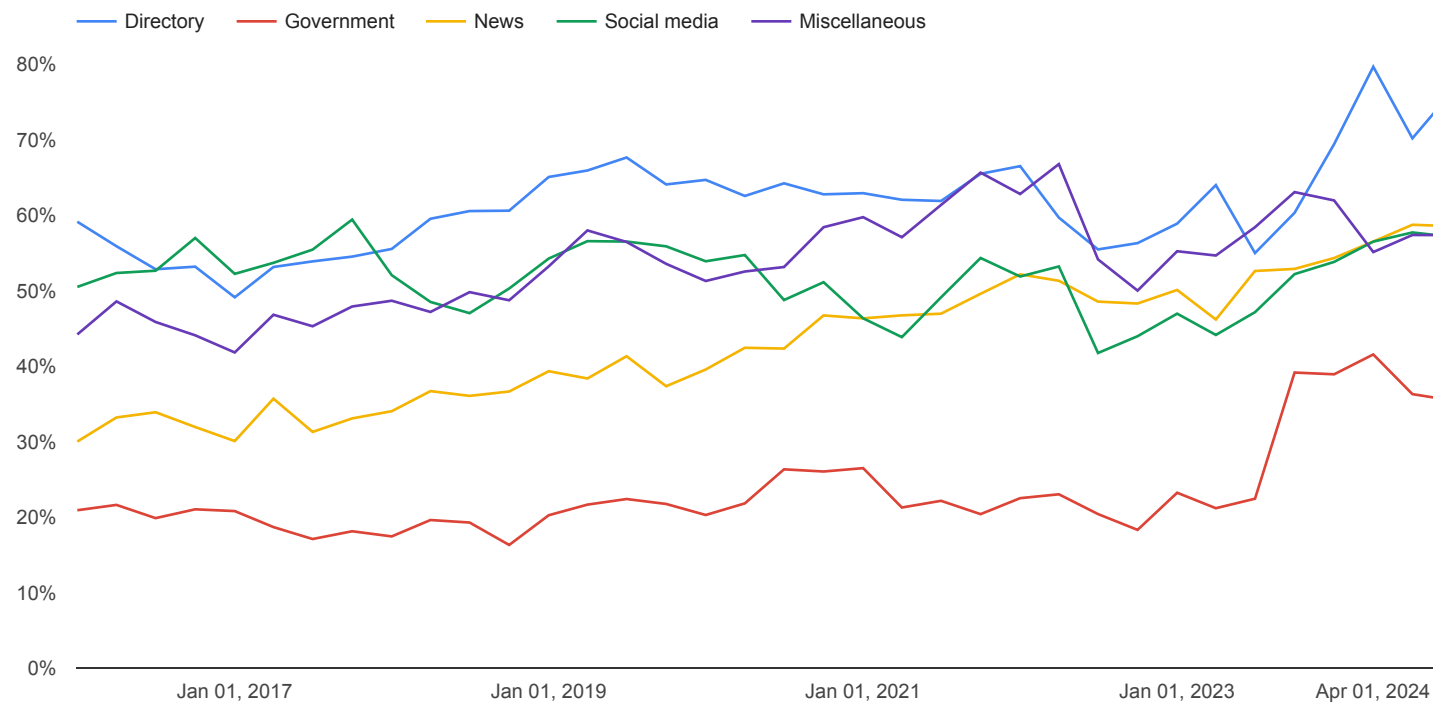
All countries

Site type	Crime	Name not found	Insufficient information	Miscellaneous	Political	Personal information	Professional inforr
Directory	1%	21%	17%	8%	0%	25%	
Government	5%	9%	17%	19%	4%	4%	
News	21%	11%	18%	7%	4%	3%	
Social media	3%	26%	28%	10%	1%	3%	
Miscellaneous	5%	23%	29%	10%	2%	4%	

Requested URL delisting rate by site category

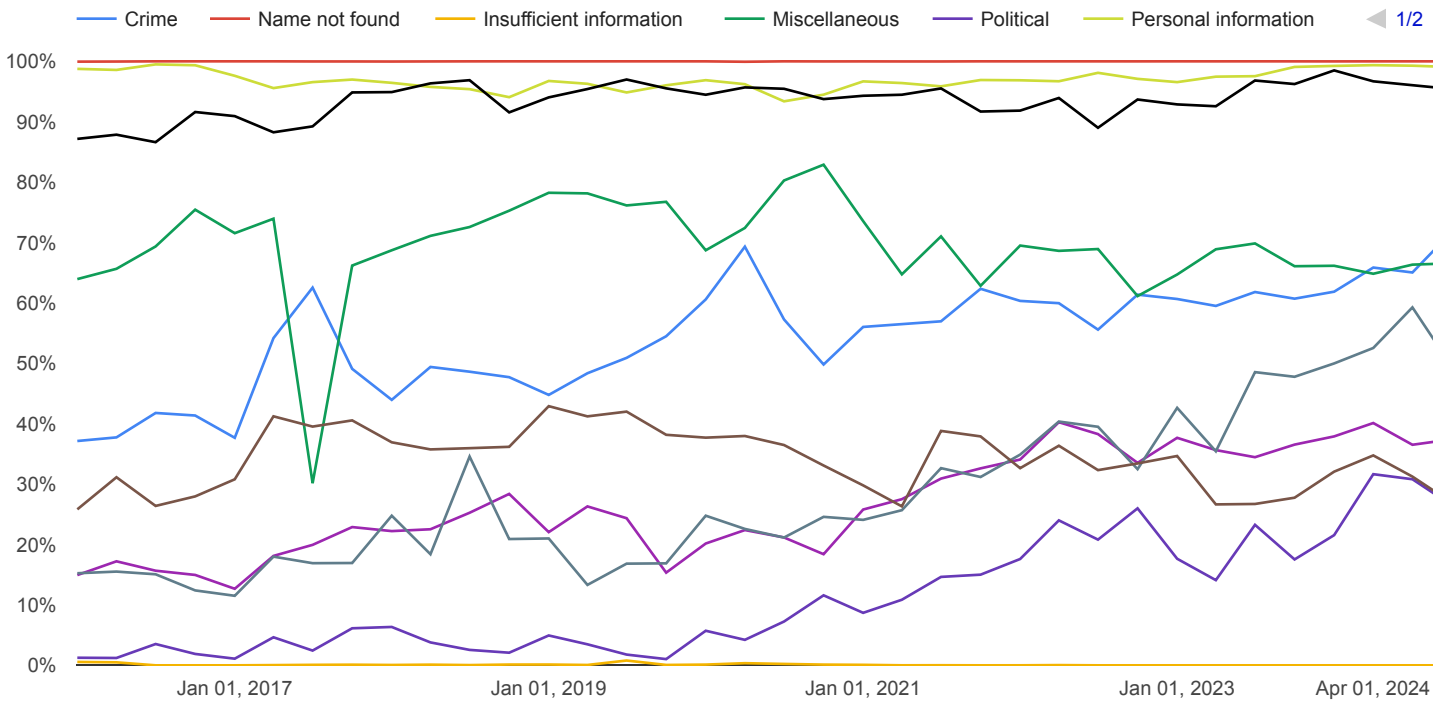
This chart shows the rate at which requested URLs are delisted, by category of website and content on the website.

URL delisting rate, by website category



All countries

URL delisting rate, by content category



All countries

Sites that are most impacted

The list below highlights the domains from which we've delisted the most URLs on Google Search.

All countries

Domain	URLs delisted	Total URLs requested
mrkoll.se	56,894	76,485
www.facebook.com	49,819	118,662
annuaire.118712.fr	42,395	49,537
twitter.com	36,470	79,714
m.facebook.com	23,120	43,202
www.youtube.com	22,761	67,223
www.ratsit.se	21,731	29,672
groups.google.com	20,788	38,364
www.birthday.se	19,568	27,813
www.krimfup.se	16,183	18,516

Explore how European privacy law impacts Google Search results

Since July 2014, European privacy law has had an impact on information available for certain queries in Google Search. The numbers here quantify and explain that impact.

Learn more about the relationship between privacy and access to information online.

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